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**Committee Assignments**

- Ways & Means, Ranking Republican
- International Trade & Economic Development
- Rules

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**Thanks for taking the time to keep abreast of what's going on in Olympia!**

# Sen. Joe Zarelli's

## UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

### 1/28/05

Dear Friends,

I want to thank those of you who have already contacted my office this session via letters, telephone calls and e-mails. You have expressed your views on issues ranging from the possibility of a revote in the Governor's race to the recent spat of anti-gun legislation. Your willingness to communicate your thoughts and ideas to me is greatly appreciated!

Speaking of anti-gun legislation, most of you know where I stand on this issue – it's no secret. I believe the second amendment is a vital – and individual – right. Without the second amendment, one wonders if the first, third or any other can truly be secure.

With Democrats in control of the House, Senate and, currently, the Governor's Mansion, the chances of some sort of anti-gun legislation passing the Legislature are higher than ever.

On another note, there was a hearing in the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee on legislation that would ban the teaching of abstinence-based sex education. This controversial proposal received a lot of attention with people coming from all over the state – literally – to testify.

It's my opinion that this is an issue best handled by the local school board and local school officials. What are your thoughts? I'd like to know what you think about this issue. Should the state pass mandates on what can and can't be taught in sex education? Or should local school districts have some measure of control?

Also this week we celebrated National Guard Recognition day. We heard a resolution honoring the Washington National Guard for their service to our state and nation. It is important that we take time to remember and honor our guard members for their services in time of need and their protection in times of peril. From serving in Iraq to serving here in the state during natural disasters, they are everyday heroes making everyday sacrifices and they have my sincere respect and thanks.

As always, please contact my office with any concerns or questions. It truly is a pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,

Sen. Joe Zarelli, 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**District Day – You are invited!**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Day will be held on Wednesday, March 23. The day will include a tour of the newly-refurbished Legislative Building, lunch with myself, Rep. Orcutt and Rep. Curtis, a tour of the Governor's Mansion and a tour of the Temple of Justice. We will start the day at 10:00 a.m. in the State Reception Room, located in the Legislative Building. Please contact my office if you plan on attending!